



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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### **Columbia Man Jailed Following Fifth DUI**

A Columbia man was sentenced to 18 months in jail following his fifth conviction on driving under the influence of alcohol. Frederick William Wright, 36, of the 6500 block of Quiet Hours pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI), per se in Howard County District Court on Tuesday afternoon. Driving under the influence "per se" means that a subsequent test of the driver's blood or breath exceeded the legal limit for alcohol.

Wright was arrested on October 3, 2016 at the scene of an accident on eastbound MD Route 108 at Red Branch Road where he rear-ended another vehicle in the left turn lane. At the time of the accident Wright's driver's license had been suspended. The other driver told police that following the accident Wright poured the contents of a plastic cup onto the roadway and tossed the cup under his car. Police recovered the cup and it was determined to contain beer. Police reported that a breath test at the police station revealed that Wright had a blood alcohol content of .26— over three times the legal limit of .08.

At the plea hearing, Howard County Senior Assistant State's Attorney James F. Brewer told Judge Wayne A. Brooks that Wright's driving record revealed four prior DUI convictions in Howard and Anne Arundel counties since 2007 including an August 9, 2016 infraction for which he is awaiting sentencing. "He's not getting the message; he is a danger on the road," Brewer said.

Judge Brooks noted that it was rare to have someone before the court with five DUI convictions. He sentenced Wright to three years, suspending all but 18 months, and assessed a \$1,000 fine plus court costs. Upon his release Wright will serve three years of supervised probation.

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